

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club Inventory Number: BA-3121
Address: 2201 Smith Avenue Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21209 County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West, Cockeysville
Property Owner: Bonnie View Country Club Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 83 180 242 Tax Map Number: 79
Project: Potential Army Corps Permit Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Agency Prepared By: _____
Preparer's Name: David C. Berg Date Prepared: 1/1/2004
Documentation is presented in: MHT Library
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

NOTE: THIS PROPERTY HAS TWO MIHP NUMBERS: BA-3121 AND B-1366

The Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club is located on 160 acres of land in both Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Approximately 20 acres are located in the city and the remaining acreage is located in the county. The property is located along both sides of Smith Avenue at 2201 Smith Avenue. The course was designed by golf course architect Frederick Findlay in 1932, and later modified by another golf course architect, Edmund Ault. The original club house, a shingle style frame structure constructed in 1932, was demolished and replaced by a new club house, constructed in 1959. The 1959 club house is the only major structure on the golf course. It was designed by the firm of Bonnett and Brandt and has in the Modernist and International Style elements. This club house was radically altered in 1992 during major renovations undertaken by the Baltimore architectural firm of Kann and Ammon, Inc. This following analysis investigates the significance of the golf course, its architect, and the club house, and finds that it does not meet any of the Criteria for inclusion in the National Register.

The Bonnie View Golf Club Course

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: Refer to last paragraph in text of this DOE Form.

C. Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Peter Kurtze
Reviewer, National Register Program

Wednesday, May 05, 2004

Date

Friday, May 07, 2004

Date

Bonnie View was built as a municipal golf course, open to public play at daily fee rates. In general these "muni" courses were not of the design stature of courses built on private facilities. They were generally affordable courses built for the less affluent and were usually designed to favor the games of the lesser skilled player. They were also designed to keep the pace of play moving along. Consequently, their designs were architecturally less demanding. This is not to say they were inferior - they had their own purpose, which they filled marvelously. There were, and are, few public access courses that could be considered great courses.

In order to gain a better contextual understanding of the course and its architect, research conducted at the United States Golf Association Library in Far Hills, New Jersey. A search of reference works listing significant golf courses do not mention any courses built by Fred Findlay.

Further research included conducting interviews with respected and well known authorities on golf and golf courses, including golf writers and golf historians. When asked about the architect Fred Findlay and his work, none of these writers and historians even knew of any of his work. They were, however familiar with his brother, Alex Findlay. The authorities interviewed include:

- * Geoffrey Shackelford, golf writer and historian, has written six golf architecture books based on the Golden Age.
- * Daniel Wexler, golf architecture writer who has two books on Lost Golf Courses - classical courses that no longer exist.
- * Dr. William Quirin, golf writer and historian for the Metropolitan Golf Association, who has written two books on courses built in the Eastern U.S. as well as a goodly number of club histories for name clubs in the northeast.
- * Rand Jerris, curator of the USGA Golf Museum, who was for many years the curator at the USGA Golf House Library.

The seminal work by golf writer Geoffrey Shackelford, *The Golden Age of Golf Design*, written in 1999, does not mention Frederick Findlay. The lack of any mention of Frederick Findlay in any of the accepted authorities on golf courses and their architects is clear evidence that his work is not considered historically significant by those knowledgeable in the field.

The layout of the Bonnie View Golf Club's course: both the original and the present alterations, are not representative of the strategies of the great courses of the day, especially those from the Mecca of Golf, St. Andrews' Old Course. If classic strategies were present, it would add credence to the argument for significance. Influences would include such masterpieces as the Road Hole (St. Andrews-#17), the Eden Hole (St. Andrews-#11), and the Long Hole (St. Andrews-# 14). Further important influences would be the strategy of the Redan, perhaps the most important of all strategies, taken from the 15th holes at North Berwick. These strategies influenced the design of almost all great golf course architects and still influence today's architects. There is a notable lack of evidence of influences of any "great holes" on either the original Bonnie View or the modified course.

The Bonnie View course as a course designed exactly for what it was meant to be, a public golf course; a course modestly bunkered, with open approaches and moderate green complexes designed for the average golfer. It was a course designed for a fun day on golfing grounds not meant to overly tax the talents of those who played over it.

In conclusion, although Fred Findlay built a number of courses, he was certainly not one of the great golf course architects of the Golden Age, but rather an average architect that happened to be building courses during that time period and beyond. Neither the architect, nor the course itself, possess the historical or architectural significance adequate for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Modifications to the Bonnie View Course Over Time

Close examination, comparing the original 1932 course and the course today reveals it has been substantially modified; important

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Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended X

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

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strategic bunkers have been removed - probably to make the course easier and faster to play; greens have had their original shapes changed; bunkers greenside have shifted much further from the greens; and most significantly, the greens themselves have been significantly altered in shape and size with little respect for the original design. The same can be said for the shape and positioning of Findlay's original bunkers (sand traps). The course has not retained any of the distinctive characteristics of the architect's original design. A detailed, hole by hole analysis of the alterations made to the course was made by Mr. Ed Beidel ASGCA, golf architect. This analysis is attached to this Determination of Eligibility.

Mr. Frederick A. Findlay

Mr. Fredrick A. Findlay was born in Scotland in 1872 and lived through 1966. He was one of the sizable group of Scottish golf professionals and greens keepers, many already mentioned, who immigrated to the United States during the fledgling years of American golf.

Fred Findlay's brother, Alexander H. Findlay, who was seven years his senior, came to the United States in the 1880's. Alex was associated with a number of important sporting goods companies including Wanamakers and Wright & Ditson, but he also designed and built golf courses. He built about 100 courses over a very busy career, his three sons occasionally assisting. Alex Findlay died in 1942.

Fred Findlay went down a different road. After a seven-year stint in the British Army as a bandmaster, he moved to Australia and worked for the next 15 years as a club professional. It appears he designed a course or two during that period as well but certainly nothing to the extent his brother was doing in America. Fred eventually came to the U.S. just before 1920, nearly 40 years after his brother. He settled in Virginia taking jobs as a golf professional and greens keeper and began building a few courses. During his career as a golf architect in the U.S. it appears he built nearly 40 courses.

Using as a guide, The Architects of Golf, written by nationally renowned golf writer, Ron Whitten, and golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish, the following list of courses designed by Fredrick A. Findlay has been compiled:

Year ☐ State ☐ Course ☐ Comments

1925 ☐ VA ☐ Glenwood County Club
1925 ☐ VA ☐ Ole Monterey Country Club
1926 ☐ VA ☐ Swannanoa Golf Course
1926 ☐ VA ☐ Ingleside Augusta Country Club
1926 ☐ VA ☐ Laurel Golf Course
1927 ☐ MD ☐ Bethesda Country Club
1927 ☐ VA ☐ Augusta Country Club (not the Augusta)
1927 ☐ VA ☐ Boonsboro Country Club
1928 ☐ VA ☐ Farmington Country Club ☐
1929 ☐ PA ☐ Yardley Country Club

1934 ☐ VA ☐ Crater Country Club
1934 ☐ VA ☐ Luray Golf Course
1935 ☐ VA ☐ Spotswood Country Club
1938 ☐ VA ☐ Keswick Club of Virginia
1939 ☐ MD ☐ Camp LeJeune (Green Course)

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1940 ☐ NC ☐ Chapel Hill Country Club ☐ NLE (no longer exists)
 1940 ☐ VA ☐ Hopewell Country Club
 1942 ☐ VA ☐ Shenandoah Country Club
 1942 ☐ VA ☐ South Boston Country Club
 1945 ☐ NC ☐ Camp LeJeune (Gold Course)
 1946 ☐ VA ☐ Williamsburg Inn - pitch and putt 9-hole course ☐ NLE
 1947 ☐ NC ☐ Paris Island Golf Course

1950 ☐ VA ☐ Waynesboro Country Club ☐ NLE
 1952 ☐ VA ☐ McIntire Park Golf Course
 1955 ☐ VA ☐ Bide-A-Wee Country Club ☐ w/ R.F. Loving
 1959 ☐ VA ☐ Meadowbrook Country Club ☐ w/R.F. Loving

1960 ☐ VA ☐ Country Club of Culpepper (9 holes) ☐ w/R.F. Loving
 1960 ☐ VA ☐ Falling River Country Club ☐ w/R.F. Loving
 1960 ☐ VA ☐ Lawrencville Country Club ☐ w/R.F. Loving
 1960 ☐ VA ☐ Winchester Golf Course ☐ w/R.F. Loving
 1965 ☐ VA ☐ Hunting Hills Country Club ☐ w/R.F. Loving

Dates Unknown:

VA ☐ Carper Valley Country Club
 VA ☐ Lakeview Country Club
 VA ☐ Tides Inn - short course ☐ w/R.F. Loving
 VA ☐ Wytheville Country Club - 9 holes

Findley apparently also modified four courses in Virginia, two in 1931 and two with unknown dates. These were obviously in the latter years because they were all done with the assistance of his associate, R. F. Loving.

These are a considerable number of projects and he should be duly commended for his work. You will notice, however, only ten courses were built prior to 1934 - the Golden Age of Golf Architecture. Conspicuously absent from the list (which is considered the "bible" of golf course architects), is any mention of the Bonnie View Golf Club course.

A Brief History of Golf in the United States

Golf was in its infancy between 1910 and 1920 but was growing rapidly and there was a need in the U.S. for men who knew the game. Americans knew little of this "new" game at that time but there were a few men who were very determined to bring to this country the game and its traditions as it was played on the British Isles. Many Scots took positions as club golf professionals and greens keepers adding their much needed knowledge of the game in this new American golfing environment.

In these early years golf in America was floundering - trying to find a universal path. Charles Blair Macdonald, representing the Chicago Golf Club, and representatives from four other clubs were the original founders of what was to become today's United States Golf Association. Founded in 1895, this new governing body seized the reins and supervised the direction the game would take from then on. With this newly organized group at the helm many new clubs opened and flourished and many more opportunities became available, adding to the need for and resulting in an influx of the emigrating players and professionals from

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the British Isles. These men grew up with the game in England and Scotland. They knew the game well and knew the great courses overseas well. Seeing the terrible courses built in America at that time, it was a natural evolution they began designing, building, and remodeling courses in this country.

The period from about 1910, when Macdonald built the first prototypical strategic course in Southampton, Long Island, to the early 1930s is commonly referred to as the Golden Age of Golf Architecture when many of the greatest courses were designed and built by a group of very special, very talented men. The biggest names during the earliest years were the aforementioned Charles B. Macdonald and his protégée Seth Raynor, the partnership of Colt and Alison, and Donald Ross.

From about 1923 on, as the Roaring Twenties shifting into high gear, the U.S. was blessed with the creativity and genius of such course architects as Dr. Alister MacKenzie, A. W. Tillinghast, Hugh Wilson, George Thomas, Perry Maxwell, and their protégées. Most of these great architects had a "style" of their own, not wanting to copy one another, and the work of their protégés generally reflected the style of their mentors. There were, of course, many, many more "architects" - some might better have been called "course builders," who combined the styles of the greats, adding flourishes of their own. Others, wishing to become one of the greats, did their "own thing," becoming very creative at times. There were a lot of commissions to be had as the game grew by leaps and bounds.

The Bonnie View Club House

The current Club House replaced an original 1932 Club House of shingle style. The present Club House, constructed in 1959, was designed by the Baltimore architectural and engineering firm of Bonnett and Brandt. The Club House facility is built on a slope and is a two story structure. The Club House building itself is generally rectangular in shape and is located approximately 400 feet south of Smith Avenue to the north and approximately 250 feet east of Edenvale Road. The building is surrounded on the north and west by paved parking areas and on the east by swimming and tennis facilities as well as the golf course beyond. On the south, adjacent to the Club House, are located several service buildings with portions of the golf course beyond.

In 1992, the building underwent a major renovation (by the Baltimore architectural firm of Kann and Ammon, Inc.) to both the interior and the exterior. The major exterior change included the expansion of the upper level Main Dining Room to the north and involved incorporating and enclosing a large existing open deck into the existing Dining Room.

The building is generally designed in the Modern Style and is constructed primarily of brick and glass. The primary design feature is the large glass curtain wall on the upper level of the Main Dining Room that faces to the east and rises to a level of approximately 18 feet above the floor. A gently pitched single sloping roof toward the east covers this area and serves to accent the feeling of height and openness of the room.

The main entrance to the building is from the north. The facade at this point is rather narrow and contains a centrally located series of entrance glass doors and windows that extend the full height of the facade. These openings are flanked on each side by blank brick walls. At the mid-height of the glass wall, a flat roof extends to the north to form a Porte Cochere. This roof is supported by two V-shaped steel columns located at the outside corners of the roof area.

The east elevation, because of the sloping site, exposes both levels of the building. The upper level is comprised of eight bays of alternating four-foot wide brick pilasters and a glazed window wall system, each extending the full height of the elevation. There is also a twenty foot wide balcony with a simple metal railing of vertical pickets extending the full length of this elevation. The upper level, containing approximately 25,000 SF is generally rectangular in form.

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The lower level is of brick construction and contains access to the men's locker room and generally to the lower level. A series of windows are located toward the south end and provide light to the men's card room and the informal dining area. Portions of the lower level extend out to the front edge of the balcony so that only the southern end of the balcony creates a covered porch at the lower level.

The south elevation, again because of the sloping site, exposes two levels toward the east and one level toward the west. The roof form on this elevation is of a shallow "V" configuration with the lower height toward the middle of the building. Therefore, toward the east side of this elevation, the window wall of the main dining room is extended around the corner from the east and two bays of glass curtain wall are exposed. This design is actually continued through to the ground level at this location and forms window exposure to the lower level at the informal dining room. The west end of this elevation is of brick construction and is a blank wall forming the side of the kitchen.

The west elevation is the most simple in form. It is primarily of brick construction with limited fenestration and contains (beginning from the north): six narrow vertical window slots at the office area; a pair of doors flanked by five punched window openings at the meeting room; two windows into the kitchen; and, a loading dock into the receiving areas of the kitchen.

Summary of Findings with respect to Determination of Eligibility

Criteria A: Events

In evaluating the site with respect to Criteria A, one must note the overall history of the site from the time of the golf course itself and evaluate the specific associations with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The original golf course and club house were constructed in 1932 as an expansion of the Baltimore City public courses. It was not until 1950 that the golf course was purchased by I. William Schimmel and not until 1954 that the adjacent development of Ranchleigh was begun. In this regard, while these events generally follow the Post World War II Suburban migration pattern and specifically the Jewish-American movements into northwest Baltimore there is only a incidental linkage between the Bonnieview Country Club and the adjacent community. There is no apparent evidence that, other than adjacent location, that membership in the Club had any direct connection to the residents of Ranchleigh. There is additionally no direct relationship to the development of the golf course itself and the Country Club, since the course predates the Club by almost 20 years.

Criteria B: Persons

Under Criteria B, the Bonnie View Country Club must gain significance beyond its use by a number of people who were members of the Club. That is to say, its significance must be linked to an individual or individuals whose activities or contributions were historically important. Further, the Bonnie View Country Club should illustrate a person's important achievements. In this regard, I. William Schimmel has been identified as the person who originally sought to purchase the Club in 1950 and who served as its first President. While his long career as an attorney and an active member of the Jewish community can be documented, adequate information has not been established to raise Mr. Schimmel's individual contributions to the community to a significance that would make his association with the Bonnie View Country Club meet the requirements of Criteria B.

Criteria C: Design/Construction

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended X Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G **MHT Comments:** Refer to last paragraph in text of this DOE Form.

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The Bonnie View Club House was constructed in 1959 and is less than 50 years old. In order to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it must qualify under Criteria Consideration "G", for properties that are less than 50 years old. Under this consideration, the Country Club must be of "exceptional importance" to qualify for inclusion in the National Register. While the building is of the Modern Style and has evidence of the influence of several modernist architects in its use of shed and double shed roof forms, it falls far short of reaching what is envisioned in Criteria C for more recently constructed buildings. The project is an early work of the Baltimore architectural and engineering firm of Bonnett and Brandt. While the firm did completed many projects within the Baltimore area, once again, considering the firm's full body of work, they would not be considered under the criteria as a master in the profession, and the Bonnie View Country Club is not an exceptional example of the firm's work, nor is it an exceptional representative of its type. Therefore, the building does not successfully meet Criteria C.

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE THOSE OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST'S NATIONAL REGISTER ADMINISTRATOR, MR. PETER KURTZE. THEY ARE LISTED BELOW BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO LONG TO FIT WITHIN THE THE TRUST'S COMMENT FIELD:

Available information does not support the eligibility of the Bonnie View golf course and/or clubhouse for the National Register under any of the NR criteria. Available information does not support the conclusion that Frederick Findlay was a significant designer of golf courses, nor that the Bonnie View golf course was a representative example of a significant type or period in the history of golf course design or construction. The property's association with the observed demographic trend (Jewish out-migration from Baltimore) appears largely incidental. Other property types, such as synagogues, are arguably more directly associated with this trend.

The available information identifies certain individuals and provides some biographical data, but does not establish that these individuals gained significance in National Register terms, i. e., made a demonstrable and lasting impact in some area of history or culture. Even if it were possible to demonstrate such significance (through additional information not currently available), it is unlikely that Bonnie View would represent the property most closely associated with an individual's productive life, as required under Criterion B. The available information does not support the conclusion that the clubhouse has architectural merit under Criterion C, nor that it rises to a degree of exceptional significance required under Criteria Consideration G for properties less than fifty years old.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEWEligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended X Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Peter Kurtze

Reviewer, National Register Program

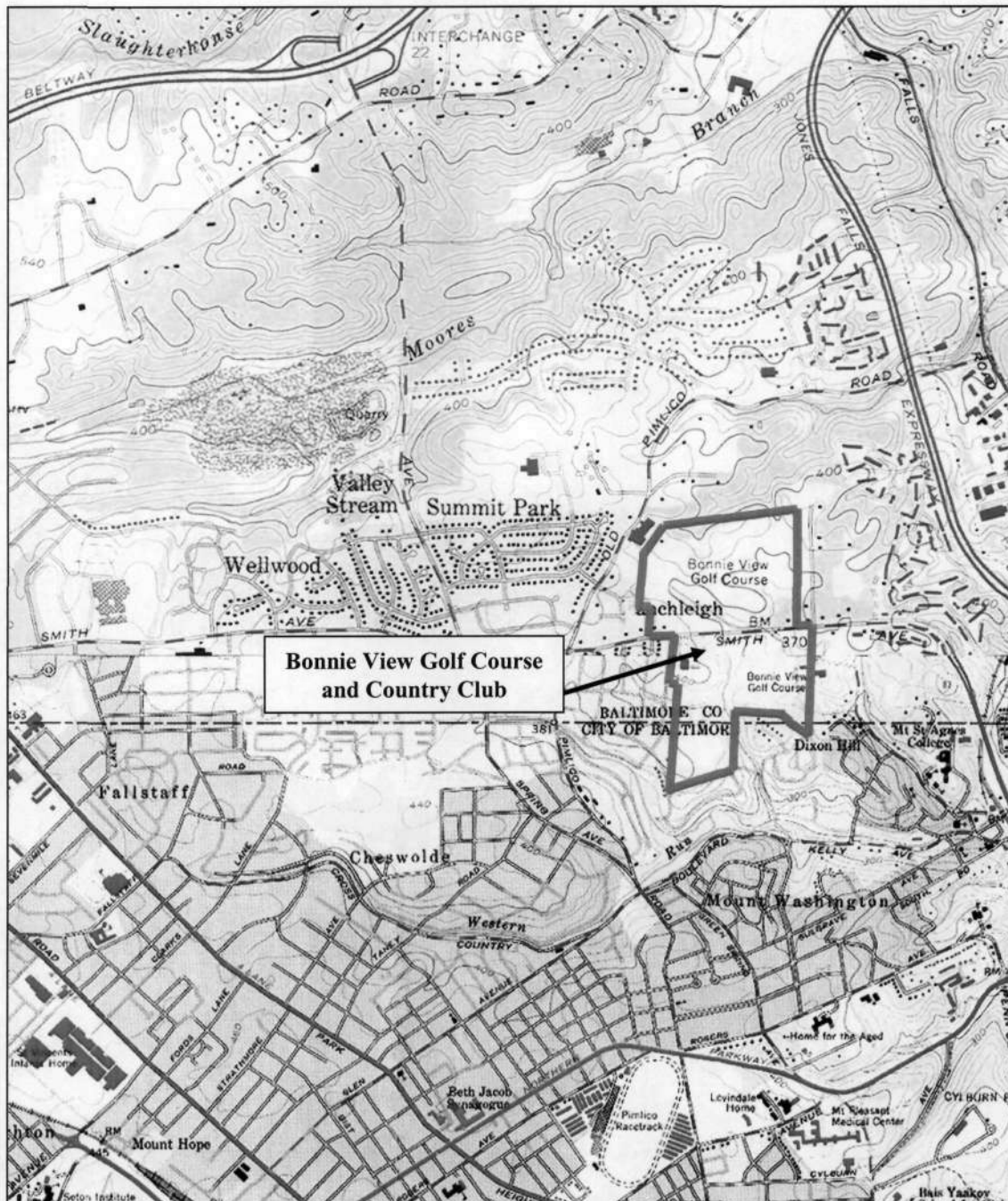
Wednesday, May 05, 2004

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM
Bonnie View Country Club and Golf Course
BA-~~1371~~ & B-1366
3121



USGS Cockeysville and Baltimore West
Maryland Quadrangles



MHP No. BA-3121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

Baltimore County MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPO

North Façade of Bonnie View Country Club House, Looking South

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MIHP No. Ba-3121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

Baltimore County, MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPO

Oblique View of West and North Facades of Bonnie View Country
Club House, looking Southeast

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MHP No. BA-5121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

Baltimore County, MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPO

Detail, East Façade of Bonnie View Country Club House,
Showing Overhead Service Doors, Looking Northwest

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MIHP NO. BA-3121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

Baltimore County, MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPO

South Façade of Bonnie View Country Club House, Looking North

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MHP No. ~~BA~~-3121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club
Baltimore County, MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPO

View of Fairway South of Clubhouse, Looking East
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MTHP No. BA-3121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

Baltimore County, MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPD

View of Fairway South of Smith Road, Looking West

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MIHP No. BA-3121 and B-1366

Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

Baltimore County, MD

David C. Berg

January 2004

MD SHPD

View of Fairway North of Smith Road at Northern Edge of
Golf Course, Looking West

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Bonnie View Golf Course & Country Club
BA-3121 & B-1366
Baltimore, Maryland
1932
Access: Public & Private

Capsule Summary

The Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club is a 160 acre site located in the rolling hills of Mount Washington along two sides of Smith Avenue. Originally designed by internationally recognized golf course architect Frederick Findlay and later updated by Edmund Ault. The course has retained the same characteristics and layout as when it was built in 1932 during "the Golden Age of Golf." It therefore meets National Register Criteria C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction of two masters of design and construction. The golf course and country club also meet National Register Criteria B for its strong association with a number of significant individuals such as I. William Schimmel and William Weinberg who have contributed to not only the country club but also to the Baltimore Jewish community through their leadership, character and philanthropic deeds. The site also meets Criteria A for its role in the Post World War II Suburban migration pattern and specifically the Jewish-American suburban migration into northwest Baltimore. A 1959 clubhouse designed by the firm of Bonnett and Brandt sits on the location of the original clubhouse and in time will gain its own significance as an exemplary example of Roof Architecture style during the Modernist period.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3121 & B-1366

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

other

2. Location

street and number 2201 Smith Avenue

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bonnie View Country Club

street and number 2201 Smith Avenue

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

zip code 21209

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 1910

folio 437

city, town Towson

tax map 79

tax parcel 83,180,242

tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape		3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense		1 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	1	4 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			0	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3121 & B-1366

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: Contributing; 1 Site
 Non-contributing; 3 Buildings, 1 Structure

Description Summary:

Located in the rolling hills near Mount Washington, the Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club is located on both sides of Smith Avenue at 2201 Smith Avenue in Baltimore City and County. Originally designed by internationally recognized golf course architect Frederick Findlay in 1932 the course is essentially the same. The course has retained the same characteristics and layout with only minor modifications by another internationally recognized golf course architect, Edmund Ault. The course is extremely beautiful and picturesque with 18 holes of varying characteristics where no two are alike. Consisting of 160 acres, 20 of which are within Baltimore City with the rest in Baltimore County, this 81 year old golf course is surrounded by the post World War II neighborhoods of Ranchleigh, Summitt Park, Copper Hill, Falls Gable Apartments, and the Greens at Smith. It is also located on part of the Bare Hills Copper Mine site, which had been in existence from the 1840s to the late 1950s. Located on the southern half of the course is the 1959 clubhouse designed by the firm of Bonnett and Brandt. An ultramodern design when built, it was built in the Roof Architecture Style and followed the Modernist philosophy of 'Form Follows Function.' Designed to replace an earlier clubhouse the 1959 clubhouse was strongly influenced by nationally recognized architects such as Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe, Marcel Breuer, and Walter Gropius.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

BA-3121 & B-1366

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

General Description:

In the rolling hills near Mount Washington, the Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club is located on both sides of Smith Avenue in what was once a post-WWI suburban setting and was once part of the Bare Hills Copper Mine Site (also known as the Vernon or Smith Avenue Mine) that opened in 1845 and closed circa 1957. The course has the first nine holes along with the clubhouse and driving range located on the south side. The north half has the second nine holes of the course.

The course was originally designed in 1932 by internationally recognized and Scottish born golf course architect Fred Findlay (1872-1966). The course is essentially the same as when it was built during the "Golden Age of Golf" and has thus retained its integrity.

After the 1950 purchase by the Bonnie View Country Club minor modifications were made by another internationally recognized golf course architect, Edmund Ault (1908-1989). Ault had worked with Findlay for about five years in the 1950s where Findlay gave Ault some of the best advice he had ever heard about designing courses 'Never fight nature, work with it.'

The course is still extremely beautiful and picturesque with 18 holes of varying characteristics where no two holes are alike. Composed of 160 acres, 18 of which are within Baltimore City with the rest in Baltimore County, this 81 year old golf course is surrounded by the post-World War II neighborhoods of Ranchleigh, Summitt Park, Copper Hill, Falls Gable Apartments, and the Greens at Smith.

Course Description:

The north half of the Bonnie View Golf Course contains what is referred to as the back nine. The northern boundary of the north

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half of the course is bordered by a thick woods running along a steep hill that separates the apartments of Falls Gable from the 17th and 16th holes. The eastern border is primarily bordered by Broadview Road which separates the 12th and 15th holes from the late twentieth century townhomes development known as the Greens at Smith. The southern boundary is primarily composed of Smith Avenue, which runs east to west from Mount Washington to Pikesville, with a group of homes located at the southwest corner of the course. Crossing the southern border is a stream which crosses under Smith Avenue and partially feeds into a small pond and continues through the southern half of the course. The western boundary is bordered by houses in the Summitt neighborhood and by the Summit Country Club facility, now an Orthodox Jewish school.

The back nine holes of the northern half of the course has the picturesque stream running mostly northwest to southeast, lined with picturesque row of weeping willow trees. The bulk of the trees lining the perimeter of the course are 50 foot high or higher pine trees. The two principal structures on the north half of the course include a wood frame snack shop and men's and women's bathroom stalls.

The south half of the Bonnie View Golf Course contains the "front nine" holes, the club house, parking lot, tennis courts, basketball courts, swimming pool, groundskeeper buildings, and the driving range. The club house is located at the northwest corner of the southern half and is situated on the location of the original 1932 rustic Early American styled clubhouse. The clubhouse is surrounded on the north and west by the parking lot which is situated over what had originally been empty fields in 1932. To the east of the club house are the tennis courts, swimming pool, and basket ball courts. Running along the northern boundary of the first nine holes is Smith Avenue. The 8th and 9th holes can be found here as well as the only pond on the site. There is also a service road and entrance that leads to the main grounds-keeper building located at the northeast corner of the southern half.

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The eastern portion of the course consists of the 6th and 7th holes that abut the 1960s townhouse development of Copper Hill and the formerly wooded border that existed between it and the Bais Yaakov school site. The first part of the southern boundary, which runs along the 6th hole, is a wooded area bordered by the homes on Sareva Road in the Pill Hill neighborhood. The next portion of the southern boundary, where the 2nd and 3rd holes are located, is the townhouse development called Brightleaf. The western border, running along the 1st hole, is bordered by the 1950s era split level houses in the Ranchleigh neighborhood on Edenvale Road.

The front nine holes of the southern half of the course also has a picturesque stream that runs from the north to south and eventually empties into the Western Run which then empties into the Jones Falls. The landscape between the fairways and along the entire border is heavily clustered by 50 foot plus trees, that appear to have been planted when the course was constructed over 80 years ago.

Club House Description:

The Bonnie View Country Club clubhouse is located on the northwest corner of the southern half of the 160 acre golf course. Its main entrance faces north towards the back nine holes and Smith Avenue. Built in 1959 by the architectural and engineering design firm of Bonnett and Brandt, of Baltimore, the clubhouse was described at the time as being an ultra-modern addition to the golf course. It clearly was an interpretation of the Modernist philosophy, "form follows function."

The previous clubhouse had been designed for the course back in 1932 and was designed in a rustic Early American cabin style. It was considered to be a cheerful structure that contained locker rooms and showers for both men and women. It also contained a "cozy" restaurant, and a sales department. Apparently the locker rooms, which were built just a few years earlier, were retained in the basement of the old structure that was built under the new ballroom.

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The exterior of the clubhouse features huge plate glass windows that command sweeping views of the golf course and the surrounding scenery, and overlooks the swimming pool and tennis courts to its east. The style of these windows is often called Miesien after the German born architect Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe who created the style. The two to three story high brick curtain wall structure is composed of several building rooms joined together to give it one of Baltimore's most interesting roof lines. The roof structures range from large shed styled, flat style to the more unique and very rare butterfly roof (sometimes called a double shed roof) that covers the end portion of the clubhouse. It is designed in the Roof Architecture style, of the Modernist Period, made popular in the U.S. from 1955 into the 1960s. A strong influence for the roof shapes used on the Bonnie View clubhouse was the 1949 House in the Museum Garden Building (Museum of Modern Art, New York City) by Marcel Breuer. Marcel Breuer was one of the first architects to break from the flat roof type of the International Style.

The clubhouse construction originally cost half a million dollars and created several new rooms that included a lounge, a lobby, a golfers' grille, several offices, a board room, a steam room, a barber shop, card rooms for both the men and women, a new pro shop and ball room that holds a prominent view that overlooks the tennis courts, swimming pool, and basketball courts. The main entrance is located under a flat roof drive-through that allowed club members to be dropped off without having to get wet. The members then entered the lobby that was constructed with large plate glass typical of the period that rose above the entry drive-through porch and allowed a great deal of natural light to fill the lobby space. This entrance is reminiscent of Walter Gropius' Harvard University dormitories project in 1948. The roof of the lobby entrance section angles back towards the main rear structure that housed everything from the bar to the lounge and trophy room.

Bonnett and Brandt also designed a pair of elevated outdoor dining and dancing patios, a new kitchen with all new equipment, a cocktail lounge and fully equipped bar. The large dining room that can seat 500 to 600 people was a sharp contrast to the "cozy"

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restaurant that existed before. While the clubhouse interior has been renovated the exterior has remained virtually unchanged and will in a few short years reach its own period of significance.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates 1932-1953 **Architect/Builder** Frederick Findlay, Edmund Ault, Bonnett & Brandt

Construction dates 1932, 1959

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Period of Significance: 1932-1953

Summary Significance:

Evaluation of golf courses as significant cultural resources has been growing as a specialty within the greater discipline of historic preservation as golf takes its place as one of America's greatest sports phenomena of the 20th century. The Bonnie View Golf Course was designed by Scottish-born golf course architect Frederick A. Findlay in 1932 during what has been called 'the Golden Age of Golf.' Minor changes to the course after the purchase in 1950 by the Bonnie View Country Club were completed by another internationally renowned golf course architect by the name of Edmund Ault. Ault was a one time associate of Findlay's who followed Findlay's design philosophy of golf course design. The Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club meets National Register Criterion C for it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction that are representative works of two masters of design and construction. The Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club also meets National Register Criterion B for its association with a number of significant individuals who contributed not only to the Country Club but also to the Baltimore Jewish community through their leadership, character and philanthropic deeds. Men like I. William Schimmel and William Weinberg exemplify the attributes that meet the criterion of persons significant to our past. Finally, the Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club meets National Register Criterion A for its role in the Post World War II Suburban migration pattern and specifically the Jewish-American suburban migration into northwest Baltimore. The Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club has demonstrated through its distinctive landscape design, contribution to the broad patterns of our social history and through the association of significant persons to our past that it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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Significance:

I. The Beginnings of the Bonnie View Golf Course

Evaluation of golf courses as significant cultural resources has been growing as a specialty within the greater discipline of historic preservation as golf takes its place as one of America's greatest sports phenomena of the 20th century.

While little is known about the exact origin of the game in the United States, it is clear that it was imported from Scotland during the 1880's and played on rough pasture areas prior to the construction of courses designed specifically for this purpose.¹ The American public's interest in golf seemed to mirror the economic climate of the country during the first half of the 20th century. The fun-loving, free-spirited ambiance of the 1920's witnessed a rise in interest with some 2.25 million Americans playing the game by 1930.² Further statistics indicate that in 1916 there were 742 constructed golf courses in the U.S. By 1930, there were 5,691.³

Golf courses are therefore unique as American cultural resources because they were almost always built during the 20th century. Clubhouses and other secondary features that contribute to the overall landscape of a course are therefore also exemplary of 20th century architecture and design.⁴ The designers of these early 20th century courses were often called "player architects." They followed the Scottish tradition of course design. This course design philosophy consisted of choosing the best possible sites and making minimal changes to the landscape.

¹ Virginia Scott Jenkins, "Fairway Living: Lawncare and Lifestyle from Croquet to the Golf Course," *The American Lawn*, Ed. Georges Teyssot (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999), 122.

² Susan E. Smead and Marc C. Wagner, "Assessing Golf Courses as Cultural Resources," *Play Ball! Sports in American Life*, Volume 23, Number 10 (2000): 16.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*, 18.

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The Bonnie View Golf Course was designed by Scottish-born golf course architect Frederick A. Findlay in 1932⁵, during what has been called the 'Golden Age of Golf'. It was originally built as a supplement to Baltimore's municipal courses and operated on a daily fee schedule.⁶ The 1932 promotional pamphlet that advertises Bonnie View as "a beautiful course" which caters to those who "desire to enjoy their golf in the same social atmosphere...as a private club" suggests that from the beginning, Bonnie View offered both the seasoned golfer and the amateur a well-constructed and unique course. Bonnie View's primary point of difference lay in the creativity which Findlay demonstrated in his design: the first nine holes differ so drastically from the second nine that the "effect is that of playing on two different courses."⁷ Bonnie View was already in operation when the Augusta National Golf Club was being designed and a full two years before the First Masters Tournament was played in Augusta.

As a designer, Findlay must have looked no further than his own backyard when designing golf courses in the U.S. upon his arrival in 1922. Golf course design was a family tradition: he was the youngest of three brothers (Alexander H. Findlay 1865-1942 & Albert E. Findlay 1872-1966)—all of whom were players and involved in course design.⁸ All three were born in the town of Montrose in Scotland between 1865 and 1872 and emigrated to either America or Australia after the First World War. Montrose is well known within the annals of Scottish golf history as home of the Montrose Links Medal Course. According to Margaret Stewart, Secretary of the Montrose Links Trust, the Medal Course has been in existence since 1562 and is the fifth oldest golf course in the world.⁹ Frederick Findlay is currently on record at Montrose as a former golf pro prior to his immigration to the U.S. and entry into design. It is at the very least plausible that Findlay was influenced by the design of this course and the nearby St. Andrews course when working on Bonnie View and other courses throughout the

⁵ Fore!!: The Bonnie View Golf Club Published by the Bonnie View Golf Club, 1932.

⁶ Robert Sommers, "Bonnie View Surprised By '41 Victory in State Team Matches," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, 15 May 1956.

⁷ Fore!! The Bonnie View Country Club.

⁸ Margaret Stewart, e-mail to the author, 9 May 2003.

⁹ *Ibid.*

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Mid-Atlantic region.¹⁰ In all probability it was Frederick Findlay who came up with the name Bonnie View (meaning "pretty view") as he did when he came up with the name of another golf course in Virginia by the name Bide-a-Wee (a Scottish saying his mother would say to him which means "stay a little longer").

Findlay's work was well received by noted golfers who frequented the course. Spencer Reed, Austin McDonnell, Karl Schmidt, Marshall Neal, Carl Johnson, Stu Foxwell, and Spencer Overton all played at Bonnie View during the early years.¹¹ In 1938, players who regularly played the course decided that a more formal arrangement was in order and formed the Bonnie View Golf Club. It remained open to the public but regular memberships were sold that allowed course regulars to play without having to pay greens fees.¹²

II. Suburban Migration in the Post World War II United States

The creation of the Bonnie View Country Club is a significant piece in the much larger picture that has been Jewish migration into Northwest Baltimore. During the nineteenth century, many German and a number of Russian Jews descended on East Baltimore, taking advantage of the unskilled employment opportunities, which were available due to the large concentration of clothing manufacturing plants and retailers in the area.¹³ Life in East Baltimore during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was significantly more advantageous for German Jews as opposed to Russian Jews, as the former possessed the advantage of having a Western country of origin.¹⁴ This advantage translated into greater social and economic mobility for the German Jewish community, as the children of laborers became leaders in manufacturing and

¹⁰ Note: Further investigation is required to determine the extent to which Findlay used or did not use the Medal Course as a model when designing Bonnie View.

¹¹ Sommers.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Jo Ann E. Argersinger, "The City that Tries to Suit Everybody: Baltimore's Clothing Industry," *The Baltimore Book*. Ed. Elizabeth Fee, Linda Shopes, and Linda Zeidman. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991), 81.

¹⁴ Philip Kahn, Jr. *Uncommon Threads: Threads that Wove the Fabric of Baltimore Jewish Life* (Baltimore: PECAN Publications, 1996), 165.

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retailing.¹⁵ According to Gil Sandler, many German Jewish families achieved "undreamed" wealth and began what would become a mass exodus of German Jews from the slums of East Baltimore to the Northwest sections of the city limits.¹⁶ Russian Jews would participate in this "Northwest Passage" as well during the 1930's, as opposed to the German Jews who began leaving around the turn of the century.¹⁷

When the German Jews left East Baltimore, they moved to areas such as upper Park Heights Avenue, Mt. Washington, Windsor Hills, and Pikesville.¹⁸ Their Russian Jewish counterparts often moved into houses in the Northwest that were vacated by German Jewish families whose wealth continued to increase.¹⁹

By the end of World War II, the Northwest was dominated by Jewish families of both Western and Eastern European descent. The construction of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation's temple on the corner of Slade and Park Heights Avenues in 1951 solidified the Jewish presence in the Northwest and was later supplemented by the construction of the Chizuk Amuno synagogue on Stevenson Road in 1953. Tension between the German and Russian Jewish communities, however, had not disappeared with the creation of such symbolic houses of worship. The rift between the two groups is most evident when we examine the history of Jewish social life in the Northwest.

The economic disparity that existed between the German and Russian/Eastern European communities of Northwest Baltimore had become tangible by the end of the nineteenth century. German Jews were on the rise socially as new tides of Eastern European Jewish immigrants continued to enter Baltimore. Gil Sandler explained how many German Jews in Northwest Baltimore were becoming increasingly assimilated into mainstream, Christian Baltimore society. They felt scorn and embarrassment when categorized with Eastern European Jews, whose

¹⁵ Gilbert Sandler, *Jewish Baltimore: A Family Album*. (Baltimore: JHU Press, 2000), 37.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ Kahn, 165.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

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language, customs, and culture were entirely "Old World" and foreign to them.²⁰ In order to distinguish themselves from the Eastern European community as well as to create an environment in which they could enjoy their prosperity, German Jews of the upper echelons of society banded together and founded what came to be known as the Phoenix Club in 1886. Mr. Sandler provides an excellent description of the function of the club through the eyes of the wife of an early member: "...in its early years, few Jews who were not of German extraction were admitted. The truth is, the club was about the people in it. In those days you had to be somebody to get in."²¹ Located at 1505 Eutaw Place, the Phoenix Club was the first organized social symbol of German Jewish society.²² It was supplemented some fifteen years later by the birth of the Suburban Club at Park Heights and Slade avenues, whose membership roster featured relatives of the original Phoenix Club founders.²³

The exclusion of Eastern European Jews, who were ascending both economically and socially by the 1920's, from clubs such as Suburban led to action on the part of the marginalized. In October 1977, Tom Nugent wrote a controversial article in the Baltimore Jewish Times called "Some Things You Always Wanted to Know About Country Clubs. And more." Nugent in this article provides a virtual timeline of the development of the Jewish club phenomenon and notes an important event in the history of the Eastern European community in Northwest Baltimore. The Woodholme Country Club—regarded today as one of Baltimore's most elegant social clubs—was founded "primarily by Jews of Russian and Eastern European descent who were either excluded or felt uneasy joining the Suburban Club."²⁴

The formation of Woodholme in 1927 paved the way for like-minded Eastern European Jewish leaders in the following decades. On August 29, 1950 the Baltimore Sun reported that the Bonnie View Golf Course—built

²⁰ Gilbert Sandler. Telephone Interview. 18 March 2003.

²¹ Mary Louise Fleischmann Guttman, as quoted in Sandler, *Jewish Baltimore: A Family Album*, 39.

²² *Ibid*, 41.

²³ Gilbert Sandler. Telephone Interview. 18 March 2003.

²⁴ Tom Nugent, "Some Things You Always Wanted to Know About Country Clubs. And more," *The Baltimore Jewish Times*, 7 October 1977, 33.

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in 1932, designed by Fred Findlay, and situated in the hills of Mount Washington—was acquired by a group that planned to convert the until-then public course and clubhouse into a private facility. This facility was incorporated as the Bonnie View Country Club in the latter months of 1950, just prior to the construction of the first houses in neighboring Ranchleigh.

III. The Creation of the Bonnie View Country Club

The course remained semi-private until 1950 when a group of members—headed by prominent Baltimorean I. William Schimmel—purchased the land from John Mowbray, who also owned the Hillendale course, and completely privatized the golf club. The Bonnie View Country Club was born.

The man behind the formation of the Bonnie View Country Club was I. William Schimmel, a prominent attorney and community activist in Baltimore Jewish life. Mr. Schimmel's son David recalls that Mr. Schimmel's motivations for acquiring the Bonnie View Golf Course and converting it into a country club were quite interesting. By 1950, much of the early twentieth century discrimination against Eastern European Jews at clubs such as Suburban and Woodholme had subsided on paper but not in practice.²⁵ Mr. Schimmel wanted to offer middle to upper-middle class Jewish residents of Mount Washington and Pikesville the opportunity to join a new club that would feature the same amenities as Suburban and Woodholme with less formality and restrictions. The exclusion of children is one example of a restriction that existed at other clubs which Schimmel did not agree with. Desiring a place to bring his own family on the weekends, he saw to it that children were permitted at the Bonnie View Country Club.²⁶ Together with several of his colleagues, Bonnie View was organized and I. William Schimmel accepted the role as the club's first president.²⁷

²⁵ Dr. David Schimmel. Telephone Interview. 1 May 2003.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Gary Cohn. Obituary of I. William Schimmel. "I. William Schimmel, 103, attorney active in Jewish life," *The Baltimore Sun*, 23 July 2000, B6.

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The development of the club exemplifies the efforts of the community's residents to realize the postwar 'American Dream' while cultivating an active, involved Jewish community in Northwest Baltimore.

Schimmel's role as the Bonnie View Country Club's first president is just one of the many leadership positions he assumed during his 103 years of life. A native New Yorker who moved to Baltimore as a child, Schimmel graduated from City College and the University of Maryland law school. An activist in the Jewish community and a prominent attorney, he was instrumental in founding the Chizuk Amuno Congregation Brotherhood, a Jewish men's group that assists in the congregation's annual events, and assumed leadership of it during the 1930's. He was also a member of Yedz Grotto, a fraternal organization by and for Master Masons, but not directly connected with Masonry, and B'nai B'rith Menorah Lodge, a Jewish volunteer organization whose mission is dedicated to the promotion of peace and democracy everywhere.

In addition to founding the Bonnie View Country Club, he also helped to found a home for the Beth Am congregation in Reservoir Hill. He even sang in the choir when he was in his 90s. Schimmel was a member of the Jewish Educational Alliance and continued to provide legal counsel to Jewish organizations until his death in 2000. Schimmel's legacy as one of Jewish Baltimore's most influential leaders during the 20th century is significant to the historicity of the Bonnie View Country Club, as his acquisition and propagation of the club altered the very nature of the institution and was the first step in the establishment of Bonnie View as a social organization for the Jewish community in Northwest Baltimore.²⁸

Other important members included William Weinberg, the brother and trustee of Harry and Jeanette Weinberg. Born in 1912, he came to the United States with his brothers from the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. One of five children, William began his career in commercial real estate. Described as a very caring, compassionate and righteous man, he was charitable with others even when he didn't have it. Respected

²⁸ Shani Itzkowitz, "Big-Hearted Guy: I. William Schimmel is remembered for his wit and compassion," *Baltimore Jewish Times*, Volume 254, Number 4, 28 July 2000: 23.

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by everyone in the community for his values, he left a legacy for his family and for the community to follow.

Eugene Lipitz, a past president of Bonnie View, came to Baltimore from New York in 1940. He eventually became a nursing home administrator and went on to own four such homes. In 1960, President Eisenhower appointed him to the Advisory Committee for the White House Conference on Aging.²⁹ Jerome Kahn was born in Norfolk, Virginia but moved to Baltimore as a child and attended Baltimore public schools. He attended the Maryland Institute of Art and became a registered architect. His projects were built from Pikesville to Milford Mill. He later became an officer for the Commonwealth Construction Company and with Leonard Fruman co-chaired Bonnie View's biggest project at the time.

IV. Additions and Modifications to the Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club

The transition from renowned golf course to modern country club began in 1956. Under the leadership of President Eugene Lipitz and building committee co-chairmen Leonard Fruman and Jerome Kahn, Bonnie View launched a \$500,000 capital improvement program that included the construction of tennis courts and a swimming pool in addition to the already extant 6,307-yard golf course.³⁰

When I. William Schimmel and his associates acquired the golf course's "clubhouse" in 1950, they were faced with a "rustic stone building" which seemed ill-prepared for the architectural improvements that would become necessary as the club expanded. Nonetheless, the original Bonnie View inner-circle began adding additions to the original building for the next several years. By 1956, it was decided

²⁹ Obituary of Eugene Lipitz. *Baltimore Sun*. February 25, 1965.

³⁰ Robert Sommers. "Bonnie View Surprised By '41 Victory in State Team Matches." *Baltimore Evening Sun*, May 15, 1956.

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that the time had come to build a new clubhouse that would serve the needs of Bonnie View's 400 family members.³¹

The engineering and architectural firm Bonnett & Brandt was contracted to design the new clubhouse. While the Bonnie View addition was one of the firm's earliest undertakings, engineer Gerson Bonnett and designer Charles F. Brandt went on to successfully complete many projects within the Baltimore region: the Enchanted Forest Amusement Park in Howard County in 1956, the Franklin Square Elementary School in Baltimore in 1960, the Jefferson Office Building at Court House Square in Towson in 1961, the school addition of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation during the late 1960's, the Zamoiski Company office building in 1964, the addition and school building of the Greenspring Valley Synagogue in 1968 and the Beth Jacob Synagogue in Baltimore in 1964.

According to the November 22, 1959 article in the *Baltimore News American* pertaining to the Bonnie View initiative: "the project consisted of constructing a contemporary, major addition to the existing clubhouse building, alterations to the existing structure and site work."³² Bonnet & Brandt chose to retain some elements of the original structure while others were completely demolished. The result was Baltimore City's most modern country club clubhouse.³³

The new clubhouse featured a 600-person capacity ball room overlooking the equally modern swimming pool. The design was accented by large, plate glass windows that provided members with an impressive view of the golf course and scenery for the first time.³⁴ Amenities such as a lounge, lobby, golfers' grill, board room, new pro shop, card rooms for men and women, and barber shop were also added. The completed building opened its doors on November 14, 1959—less than ten years after Schimmel finalized the privatization of the club.

³¹ Robert Sommers, "New Bonnie View Clubhouse Ready for October Use," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, August 25, 1959.

³² "Bonnie View Opens \$500,000 Addition," *Baltimore American*, November 22, 1959.

³³ Sommers, "New Bonnie View Clubhouse Ready For October Use." *Baltimore Evening Sun*, August 25, 1959.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

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The original golf course design, however, did not necessitate the major changes required by the 1932 clubhouse. Findlay's design was indeed timeless: the only changes made to Bonnie View's main attraction during this period of growth and renewal involved moving the first tee to a spot nearer to the clubhouse and the elimination of the dogleg on the fourth hole.³⁵

These minor changes were executed by internationally renowned golf course architect Edmund Ault. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1908, Ault was a competitive golfer who played in the National Amateur on several occasions and at Bonnie View in the 1930s. He studied construction engineering at Columbia (Md) Technical Institute before entering private practice as a course designer in 1946. Ault a master of his craft went on to design over 100 courses in the United States and abroad. Ault and Fred Findlay, the original designer of the Bonnie View golf course, worked together for five years during the 1950's³⁶ and Ault later expressed his admiration for Findlay's philosophy: "...some of the best advice I had came from Fred Findlay...his greatest comment was: 'Never fight nature. Work with it.'"³⁷

According to biographical information provided by Ault's son—Brian Ault—it has been estimated that Edmund Ault had designed or remodeled one quarter of all the golf courses in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs around Washington, D.C.³⁸ Having worked across the U.S. he is perhaps best known for his work at the Las Vegas Country

³⁵ Sommers, "Bonnie View Surprised By '41 Victory in State Team Matches." *Baltimore Evening Sun*, May 15, 1956.

³⁶ Henry Scarupa, "Edmund Ault, He's Designed More Than 100 Golf Courses," *Baltimore Sun*, October 11, 1970.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ Biography of Edmund Ault. Sent via fax by Ault, Clark & Associates, Ltd. 4/2/03.

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Club and at Five Farms in Baltimore County. Throughout his career, he emphasized the "player architect's" responsibility to combine technical skill with the ability to 'accept and work with what nature has provided.'³⁹

³⁹ Edmund Ault in Scarupa.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Argersinger, Jo Ann E. "The City that Tries to Suit Everybody: Baltimore's Clothing Industry." *The Baltimore Book*. Edited by Elizabeth Fee, Linda Shopes, and Linda Zeidman, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 160
Acreage of historical setting 160
Quadrangle name Baltimore West & Cockeysville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the Bonnie View Golf Course and Country Club follows the landscape of the original 1932 Fred Findlay designed course to the present day boundary that includes the additional property purchased in 1950 by the newly formed Bonnie View Country Club.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Karen F. Stuhler

organization

date June 13, 2003

street & number 413 Bokel Court

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city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

BA-3121 & B-1366

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Historic Properties Form

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Name

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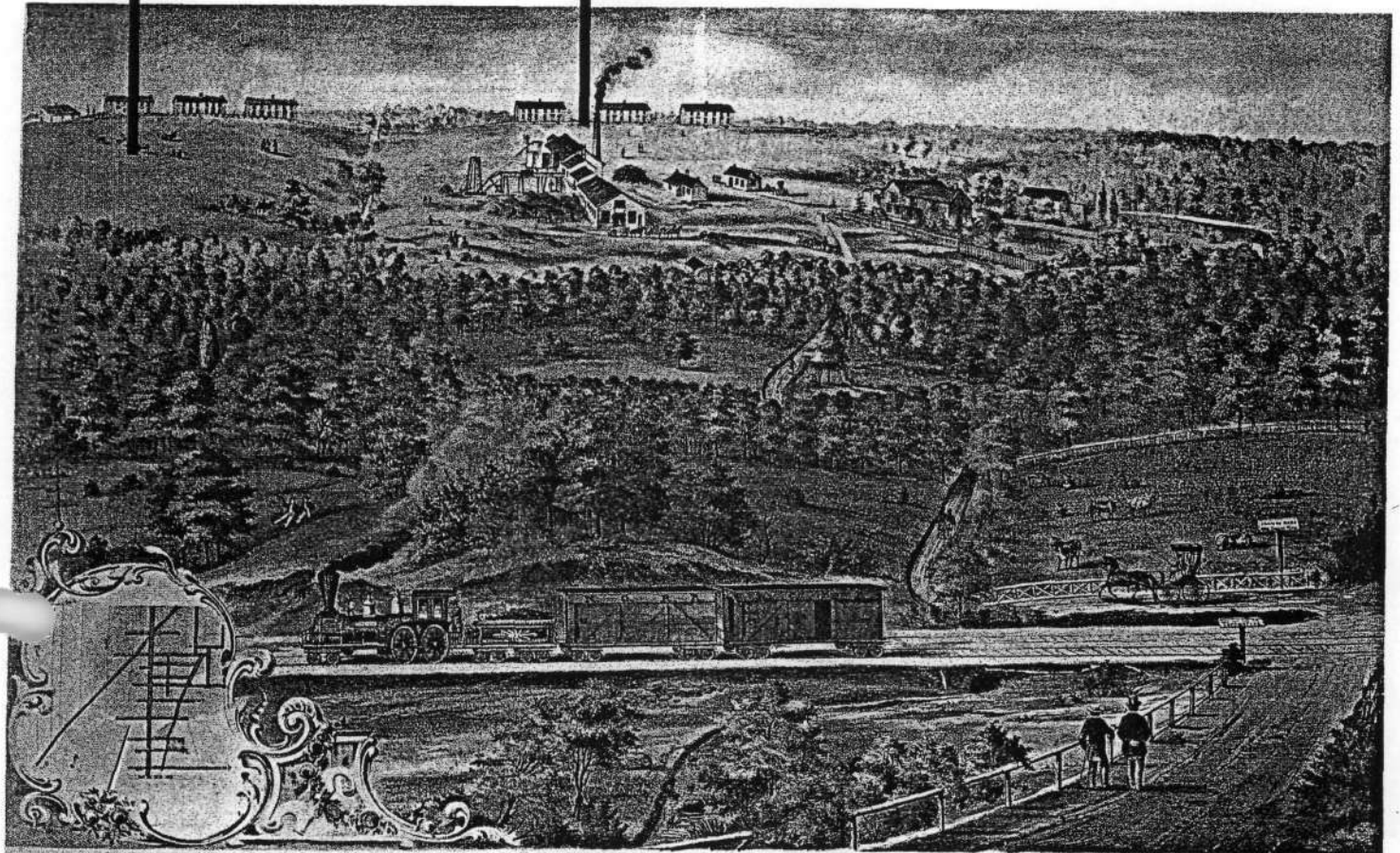
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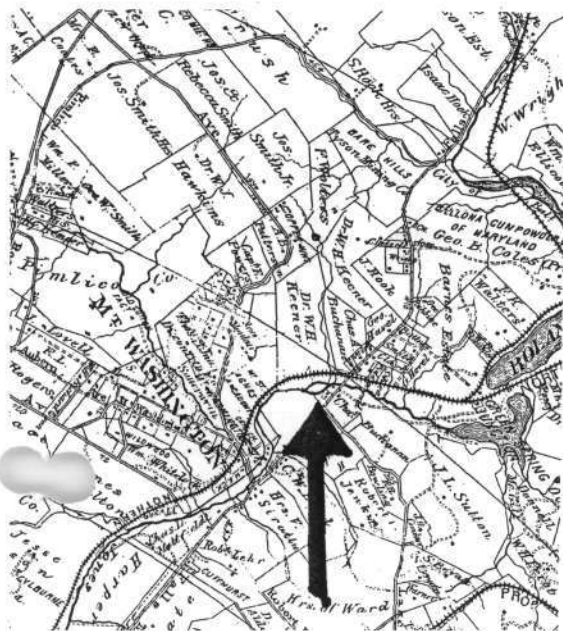
Attachment B, Boundary Line
Bonnie View Golf Course &
Country Club, Baltimore, MD
Aerial Photo, Map Quest
2003 GlobeXplorer, AirphotoUSA
BA-3121 & B-1366

Future Site Bonnie View Golf
Course & Country Club

Copper
Hill



THE BARE HILL COPPER MINE, BALTO COUNTY, MD.

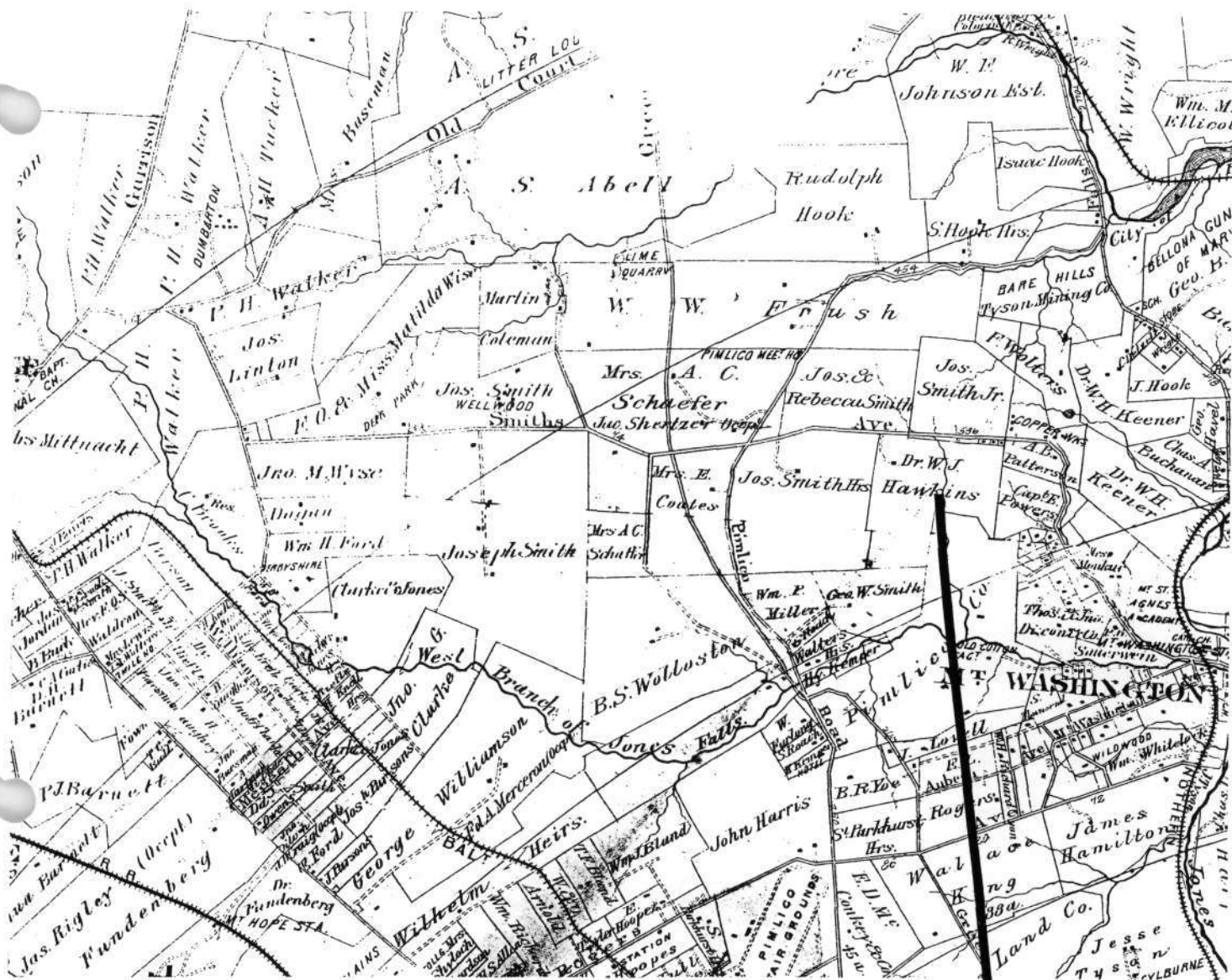


Attachment C
Bonnie View Golf Course &
Country Club, Baltimore, MD
Schmidt & Trowe View of Bare
Hills Copper Mine

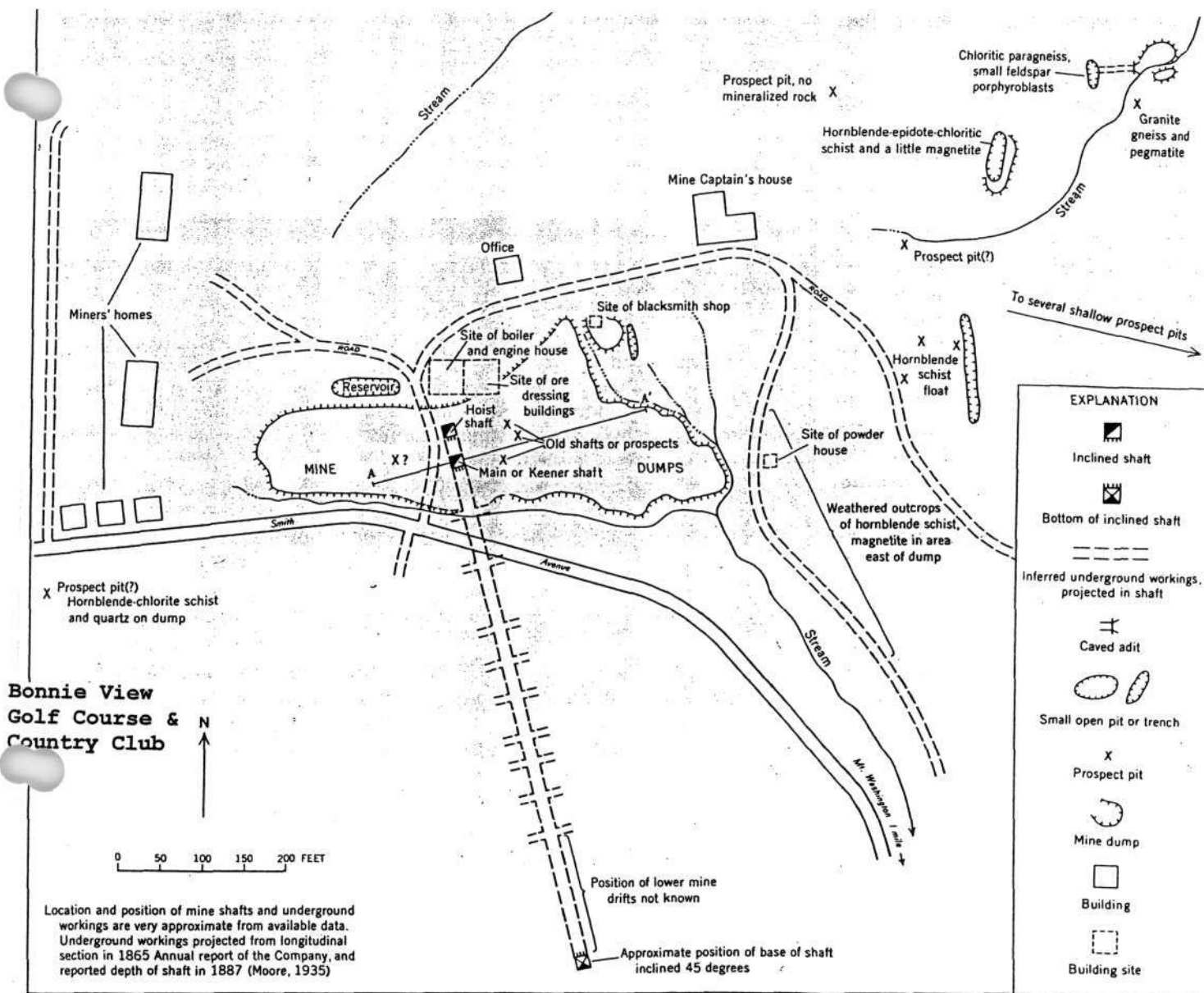
Circa 1870

Source: Maryland Historical
Society

BA-3121 & B-1366

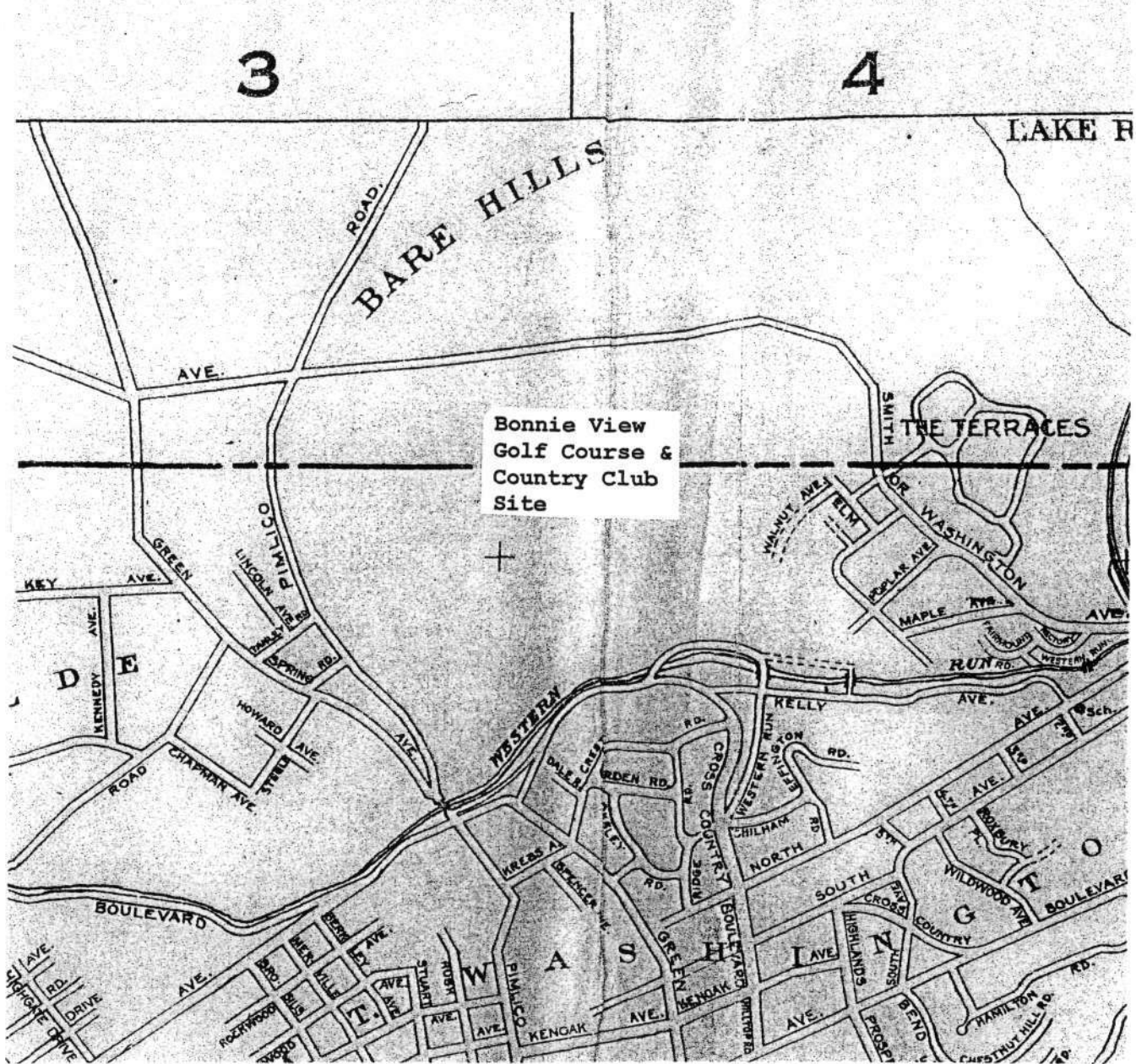


Future Site Bonnie View Golf Course & Country Club

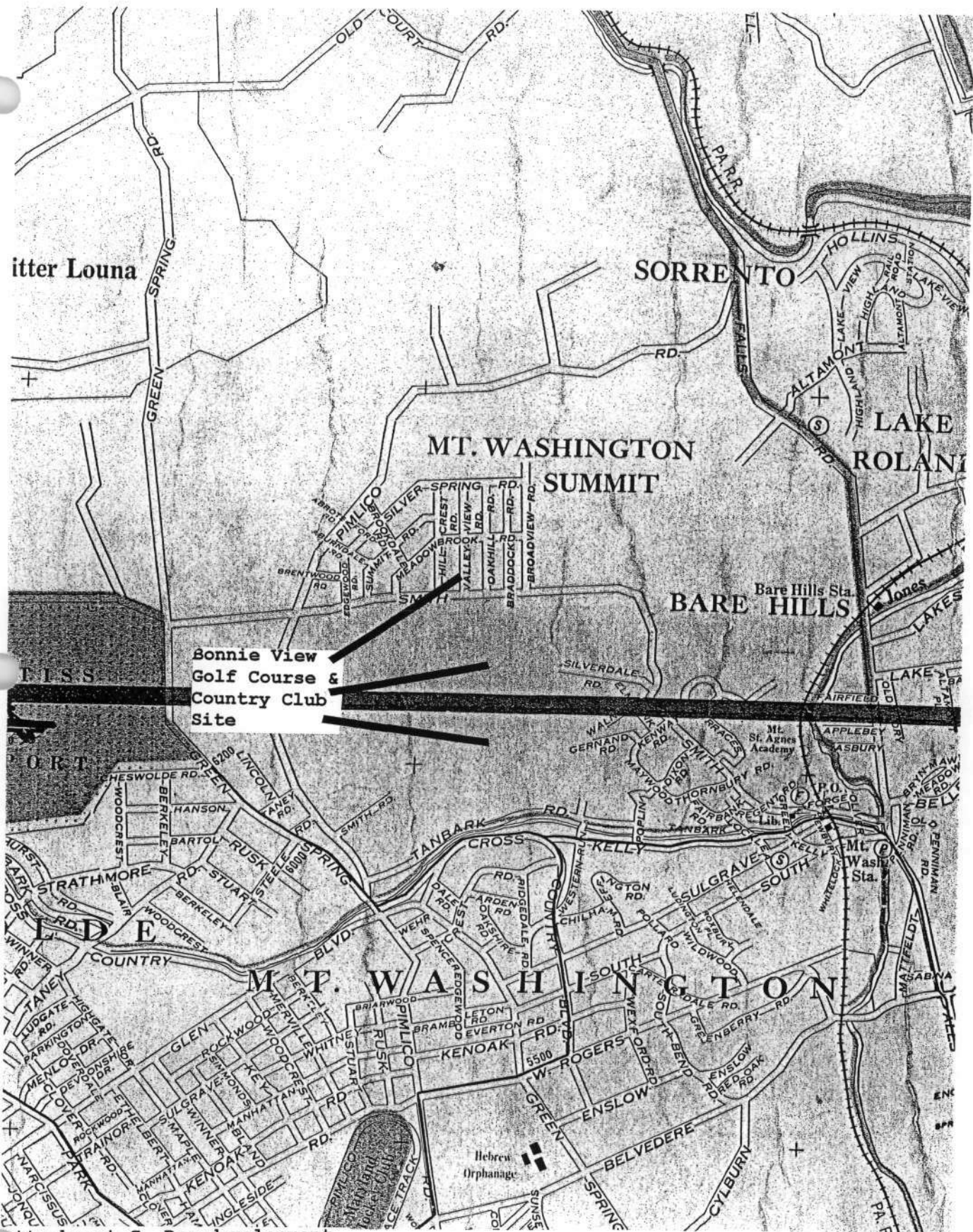


Map of the Bare Hills Copper Mine from 1957 projection made by Heyl and Pearre.

Attachment E
 Bonnie View Golf Course &
 Country Club, Baltimore, MD
 Heyl & Pearre 1957 Map of
 Bare Hills Copper Mine
 Source: MD Geological Survey
 BA-3121 & B-1366



Attachment F, Pre-development
 Bonnie View Golf Course &
 Country Club, Baltimore, MD
 Map of Baltimore
 1926, Source: Pratt Library
 BA-3121 & B-1366



Attachment G, Pre-development
 Bonnie View Golf Course &
 Country Club, Baltimore, MD
 Map of Baltimore
 1931, Source: Pratt Library
 BA-3121 & B-1366

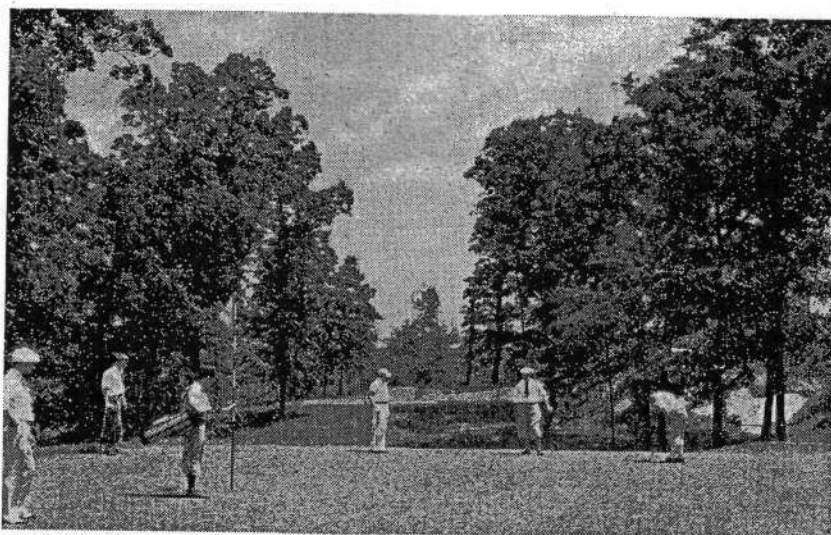


Attachment H
 Bonnie View Golf Course &
 Country Club, Baltimore, MD
 1932 Aerial View Bonnie View
 Source: Pratt Library VF
 BA-3121 & B-1366

THE ENTIRE 18-HOLE COURSE, TAKEN FROM A MILE IN THE AIR

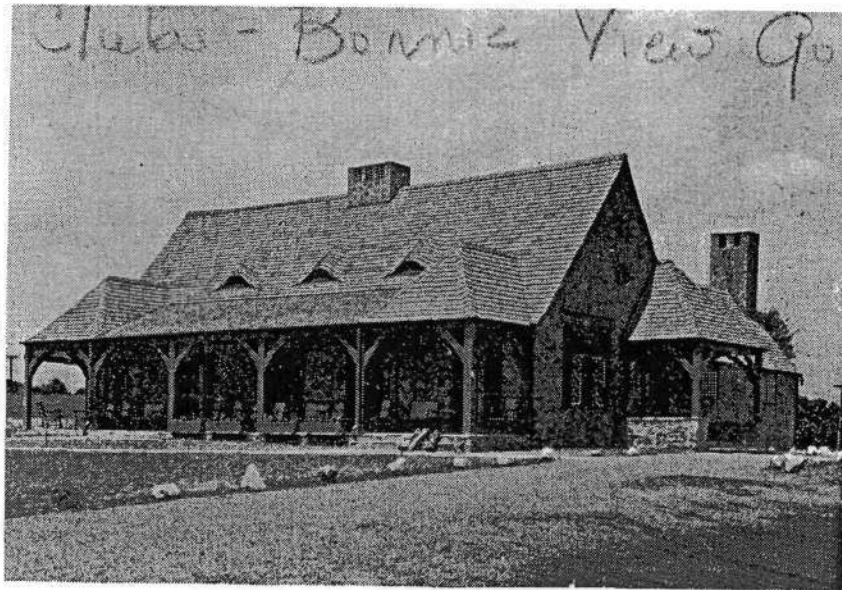


1932 View of 15th Hole

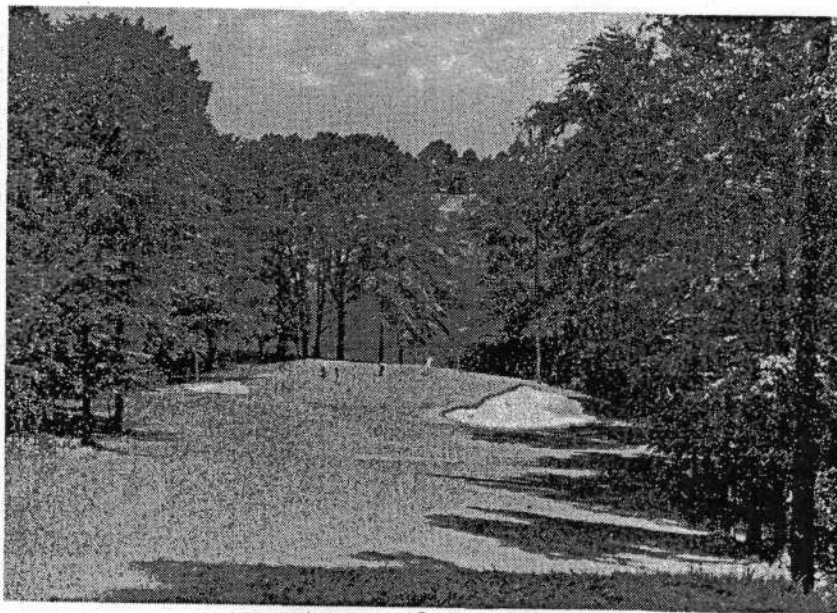


1932 View of 16th Hole

Attachment I
Bonnie View Golf Course &
Country Club, Baltimore, MD
1932 Bonnie View Golf Club
Brochure
Source: Pratt Library VF
BA-3121 & B-1366



1932 View of Original Country
Club Building at Bonnie View
Golf Course



1932 View of 3rd Hole

ment J
Bonnie View Golf Course &
Country Club, Baltimore, MD
1932 Bonnie View Golf Club
Brochure
Source: Pratt Library VF
BA-3121 & R-1366

The "Daily Fee"

basis of Bonnie View Golf Club has already won hundreds of staunch supporters. It answers the urgent need of the day for those who desire to enjoy their golf in the same social atmosphere and with the same facilities as those of a private club.

For the Stranger in Town or the Unexpected Guest

*Golf Clubs and Bags
may be rented at especially reasonable rates.*

These are the "Daily Fee" Rates for the 1932 summer season.

Monday and Friday

Before 10 a. m.—18 hole limit \$.50
After 10 a. m. - - - - - 1.00

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Before 10 a. m.—18 hole limit .75
After 10 a. m. - - - - - 1.00

Saturday before 10 a. m., Sunday and Holidays after 2 p. m.
18 hole limit - - - - - 1.00

Saturday after 10 a. m., Sunday and Holidays before 2 p. m. 1.50

LADIES: Any morning before 10 a. m.—18 hole limit - - .50
Except Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Special rates and cooperative service of the management are offered to clubs and organizations for arranging and handling tournaments and events.

THE BONNIE VIEW GOLF CLUB

SMITH AVE., MT. WASHINGTON
BALTIMORE, MD.

TUXEDO 2100

Daily Fees — No Dues

Downtown Office

501 MORRIS BUILDING
PLAZA 7560

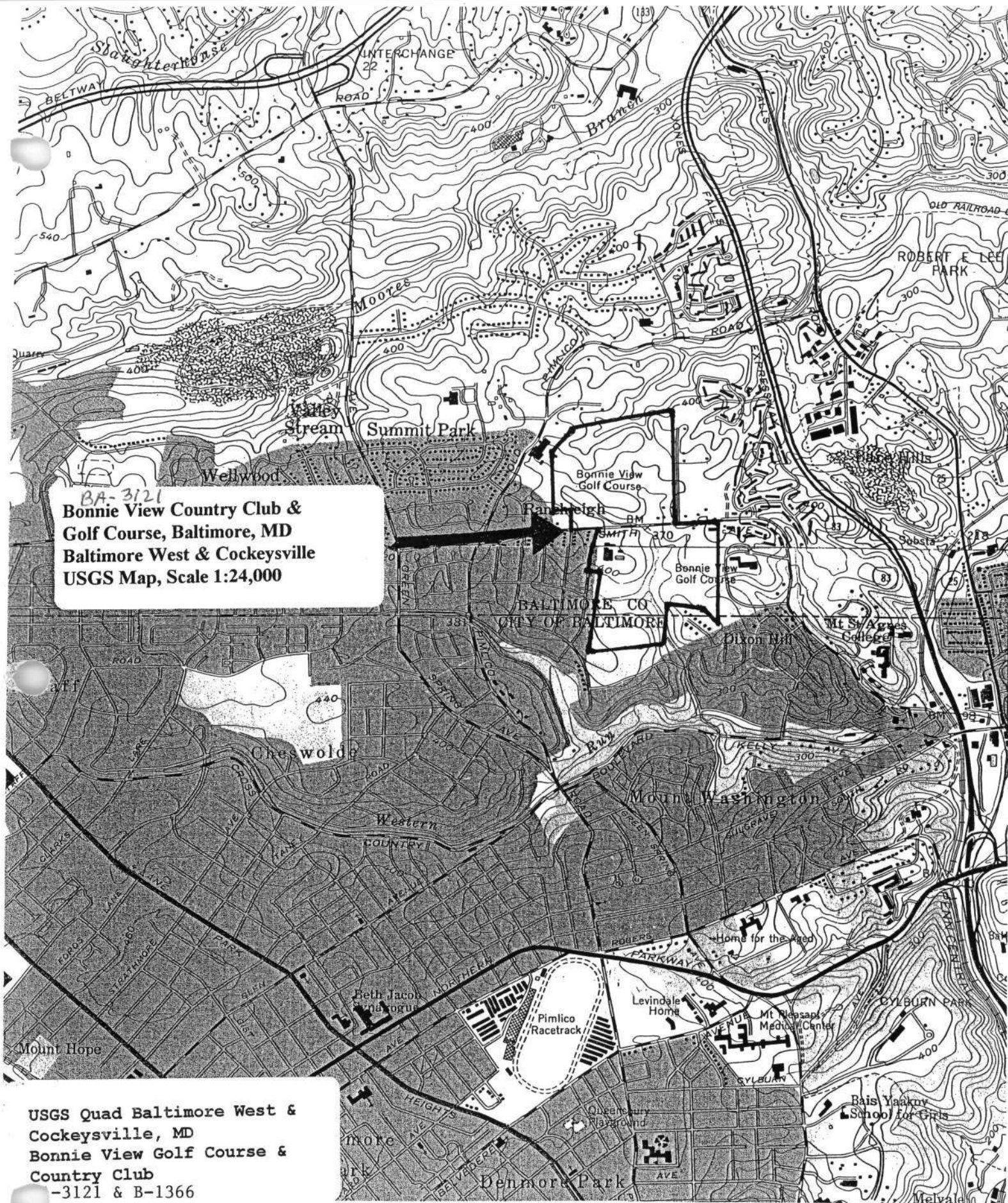
Attachment K

Bonnie View Golf Course &
Country Club, Baltimore, MD
1932 Bonnie View Golf Club
Brochure

Source: Pratt Library VF

Daily Fee Rates for
1932 Season

BA-3121 & B-1366



USGS Quad Baltimore West &
Cockeysville, MD
Bonnie View Golf Course &
Country Club
-3121 & B-1366



BV
BONNIE VIEW
COUNTRY
CLUB
2304 SWEET AVE.
FOUNDED 1910
PETERS

2201 SMITH AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
PHOTO: KAREN STUHLER

APRIL 2003

NEG. LOC CHAP
BALTIMORE, MD

BA-3121

B-1366

1 of 10



2201 SMITH AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
PHOTO: KAREN STUHLER
APRIL 2003
NEG. LOC. CHAP
BALTIMORE, MD

NORTH WEST ELEVATION

BA-3121

B-1366



2201 SMITH AVENUE BA-3121 +
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PHOTO: KAREN STUHLER
APRIL 2003
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WEST ELEVATION

3 of 10



2201 SMITH AVENUE BA-3121 d
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND B-1366
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NORTHWEST ELEVATION

4 of 10



2200 SMITH AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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BALTIMORE, MD

NORTH VIEW - SOUTHERN PORTION

5 of 10



2201 SMITH AVENUE BA-3121 +
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND B-1366

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NEG LOC. CHAP
BALTIMORE MD

NORTH ELEVATION

6 of 10



2200 SMITH AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

BA-3121

B-1366

PHOTO: KAREN STUHLER

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NEG LOC. CHAP

BALTIMORE, MD

SOUTH VIEW - NORTHERN PORTION

7 of 10



2200 SMITH AVENUE BA-3121
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND B-1366
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APRIL 2003
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BALTIMORE, MD
SOUTH VIEW - SOUTHERN PORTION

8 of 10



2200 SMITH AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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PHOTO: KAREN STUHLER

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NEG. LOC CHAP

BALTIMORE, MD

NORTH VIEW - NORTHERN SECTION

9 of 10



2200 SMITH AVENUE - SNACK SHOP
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

BA-3121

PHOTO: KAREN STUHLER

B-1366

APRIL 2003

NEG. LOC. CHAP

BALTIMORE, MD

SOUTH ELEVATION

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